

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 09114 101757Z

65-60
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PASS ROSETTIE, US CUSTOMS SERVICE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, OECD
SUBJECT: MEETING OF GROUP OF EXPERTS ON RULES OF ORIGIN
APRIL 8-9

1. SUMMARY: AS A RESULT OF JAPANESE ABSENCE FROM MEETING AND APPARENT DESIRE BY CHAIRMAN AND EC DEL TO ATTEMPT TO WORK EVENTUAL US RULES OF ORIGIN INTO SINGLE NOTIFICATION TO UNCTAD, LITTLE PROGRESS WAS MADE IN FINALIZING NOTIFICATION DOCUMENT. CANADIANS, HOWEVER, SAID THEY WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT DRAFT NOTIFICATION WITH ADDITION OF APPROPRIATE FOOTNOTES TO REFLECT DIFFERENCES IN THEIR SYSTEM. SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE NEW DRAFT NOTIFICATION FOR NEXT MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SECOND WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.
END SUMMARY

2. JAPANESE, AND FOR MOST PART AUSTRALIANS, FAILED TO ATTEND RULES OF ORIGIN MEETING. JAPANESE ABSENCE APPARENTLY DUE TO TEMPORARY INABILITY OF LOCAL MISSION TO PROVIDE REP. CANADIAN DEL STATED GOC WILLING TO ACCEPT EXISTING DRAFT NOTIFICATION WITH QUALIFICATIONS AND PROVIDED TEXT OF FOOTNOTES TO BE ADDED TO DRAFT. US DEL NOTED THAT STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF US SCHEME
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PAGE 02 OECD P 09114 101757Z

MADE IT PREMATURE FOR US TO MAKE FORMAL CONTRIBUTION TO NOTIFICATION AT THIS TIME, BUT PROVIDED GROUP

INFORMALLY WITH INFORMATION ON GENERAL OUTLINES OF PROBABLE US REGULATIONS. HE ALSO SAID US INTENDED TO BE IN POSITION TO MAKE FORMAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO NOTIFICATION BY BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR, AND AGREED, IN SPIRIT OF COOPERATION IN EFFORTS TOWARD HARMONIZATION, TO PROVIDE SECRETARIAT WITH US VERSION OF DRAFT NOTIFICATION BASED ON THE TRADE ACT AND US REGULATIONS, TO EXTENT THESE KNOWN, AT EARLY DATE.

3. THROUGHOUT MEETING CHAIRMAN (GABRIELSSON OF SWEDEN) AND EC COMMISSION DEL (GIFFONI) STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF SINGLE DOCUMENT WITH HOPEFULLY SINGLE TEXT FOR SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ITEMS TO BE USED AS OECD NOTIFICATION TO UNCTAD. US, HOWEVER, MADE CLEAR ITS VIEW THAT IT WAS STILL UNCERTAIN WHETHER A PARTIALLY OR WHOLLY UNIFIED PRESENTATION WAS REALLY FEASIBLE, AND STRESSED SIMPLICITY OF US SYSTEM COMPARED TO COMPLEX NATURE OF DRAFT NOTIFICATION UNDER CONSIDERATION BY GROUP.

4. CUMULATIVE TREATMENT. EC INDICATED THAT ITS SCHEME FOR CUMULATIVE TREATMENT WAS NOT YET REALLY IN EFFECT BECAUSE SO FAR NONE OF THREE REGIONAL GROUPINGS DESIGNATED BY COMMISSION HAD ACCEPTED CONDITIONS IMPOSED WITH RESPECT TO CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. EFTA DELS SAID THEY WERE STILL CONSIDERING QUESTION OF CUMULATIVE TREATMENT AND INDICATED THEY HOPED FOR SOME KIND OF COMMON EFTA APPROACH ON THIS ISSUE.

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